

*Maybe*

February 9, 1954

Dear Ole:

Greetings!

I was deeply interested to see your paper with Birch-Anderson on thin sections of *E. coli*. Since seeing pictures like the one marked "b", enclosed, I have been rather uneasy about too facile mitotic interpretations. [But there has to be at least a genetic equivalent of mitosis!]. This cell seems to concord more closely with the pictures from electron microscopy than most of the others— perhaps only because the chromatin string is only occasionally unravelled.

I am hoping to follow up the technique myself, with Hans Ris' help. Have you made any effort at staining and optical microscopy with the thin sections? I think a large part of the difficulties in previous work may depend on the confusion of superjacent layers.

Best wishes,

Joshua Lederberg

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